thousand Armed Forces personnel retire each year.

(b) and (c) The Department of Personnel and Training have issued detailed instructions to all Ministries and Departments of Government of India. The progress is regularly monitored by Ministry of Defence, and the need for recruitment of ex-Servicemen against reserved vacancies is emphasised whenever necessary.

Malpractices by drug manufacturers Pesticide policy

@1322. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Nuclear Power Corporation has been directed by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) to sequentially shut down the nuclear power stations; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether such periodical shut-down have been carried out in past at Nuclear Power Station; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the number of accidents in a nuclear power stations that have occurred during the five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) In the wake of the fire incident at the Narora Atomic Power Station, as a measure of abundant caution, the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board has directed the Nuclear Power Corporation to take up the inspection of the turbine generators of the Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors by a sequential shutdown of these power stations.

(b) Periodic shutdown of power plants for routine inspection and maintenance is a standard practice and has been done earlier also.

(c) No accident has occurred in any of the nuclear power stations in India so far.

@Previously Unstarred Question No. 214, transferred from 27th July, 1993.

Accidents at Atomic Energy Plants

1323. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more frequent accidents are occurring at various atomic energy plants;

(b) the details of accidents at AEC plants during 1991-92 and 1992-93; and

(c) what fresh safeguards are going to be enforced to reduce the occurrence of serious accidents at atomic energy plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) As per the International Nuclear Event Scale, events are classified on a Scale of 1 to 7 based on the nuclear and radiological safety levels. While the lower levels i.e. 1 to 3 are termed incidents, the upper levels from 4 to 7 are termed accidents. There have been no accidents in any of the installations of the Department of Atomic Energy so far.

(c) All incidents during the operation of the nuclear power stations are reviewed in depth and recommendations based on such reviews by the Safety Bodies are acted upon.

Closure of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant

1324. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first unit of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant (RAPP) was closed twice recently due to a technical fault; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) There were two long outages in the first unit of the Rajasthan

Atomic Power Station in 1992-93, once from February 1992 to September 1992 and again from February 1993 to April 1993 on account of the problem of leakage of heavy water from the Over Pressure Relief Device mounted over the Calandria inside the reactor building.

Normal maintenance jobs were also carried out during the shut down periods.

Mal practiceh by drug manufacturers

@1325. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that faulty Government policies and marketing malpractices by certain drug manufacturers have resulted in short supply of some crucial medicines and a sudden increase in the prices of others in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to contain the spiral of prices of drug and medicines;

(c) whether it is a fact that Vitamin C tablets have virtually vanished from the market and the ones that are available are being sold at a very high price; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken to ensure an abundant supply of vitamin C tablets in the market at a reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The policy of the Government is to ensure availability of medicines at reasonable prices throughout the country, including the state of Uttar Pradehh. No general shortage of any crucial medicines has been reported. Due to exchange rate adjustments and full convertibility of Indian. Rupee, the prices of medicines having imported content have shown upward trend. The price revision in case of medicines under price control are allowed after the due scrutiny, while in case of any undue increase in prices of medicines outside price control, whenever noticed, the Government intervenes to prevail upon the manufacturers to bring them to reasonable levels.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The production of Vitamin 'C' has increased in recent months and there is no reported shortage in the market at present. The prices of Vitamicin 'C' formulations including tablets is revised in accordance with the provisions of Drug (Prices Control Order, 1987.

Pesticide policy

1326. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE:

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have adopted pesticide policy keeping in view the production of various harmful pesticides;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the new policy has already been enforced to check the use of harmful pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The Government have delicenced pesticides industry, except six hazardous pesticides. These are Aluminium Phosphide, Dimethoate, Quinalphos, Carbaryl, Phorate and Fenitrothion. Use of a pesticide is permitted after Government is satisfied about its safety, efficacy and toxicity. These are the concerns reflected in the provisions relating to registration under the Insecticides Act.

World Bank recommendation on drug production and marketing

1327. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank had recommended modern drugs for marketing and production in the country;

@Previously Unstarred Question 312, transferred from 28 July, 1993.